

✝ You are invited to stand as you are able

Announcements/Life and Work of the Church

✝ **Introit** “Where Two or Three Are Gathered” (MV 14)

✝ Procession of Christ Candle

“Long, long, long ago, before there was anything, before there was a world, before there was light, before there was darkness, there was God: Creator and Source of Life. God moved and God breathed the world into being, and God said, “Let there be light.” We present this worship candle as a visible reminder of the Creator’s great light and love.”

Land Acknowledgement

“Today as we gather to worship let us remember that we worship God on the historic and unceded territory of nations of Treaty 7. As Christ’s people, let us be people of Love, of Truth, and Reconciliation. May we live with respect on this land, and peace and friendship with its people.”

Affirming Vision Statement

“As a community church that gathers from many smaller communities in the Medicine Hat area, Westminster United Church publicly declares our commitment to creating a space where people are welcome, safe, and encouraged to participate in the life of the church inclusive of: Sexual orientation, gender identity, two spirited people, differing abilities, age, ethnic background, race, marital status, or economic circumstance.

Participation in the life of the church includes leadership, membership, sacraments, marriage, and celebrating milestones of life’s journey.

We celebrate the richness of diversity, and we commit ourselves to openness, growth, education and to influencing the community for social justice.

In our dedication to living our God's word and with God's help, we devote ourselves to proactive learning and inclusion."

Lighting of the Affirming Candle

"Not quite as long but still very long ago, One was born who embodied the light of the Creator in a way that sparked a movement and a new understanding God. We light this rainbow candle as a visible reminder of the radical inclusivity shown to us by Jesus, who calls us to follow him."

Lighting of Peace Candle

"We light the candle of Peace to remind ourselves that Christ is the Prince of Peace. We pray for peace for ourselves and for the world."

✠ Call to Worship (Psalm 105:1-6)

One: O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**All: Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**

One: Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

**All: Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**

One: Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,

**All: O offspring of his servant Abraham,^[a]
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

One: Come, let us worship!

✠ **OPENING HYMN** “Crashing Waters at Creation” (VU 449)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Most merciful God, you gather us under your wing as a hen gathers her chicks.

All: Forgive us for turning away from your goodness and love.

One: With delight you created the world: land, sky, animals, plants and humans.

All: Forgive us for not tending creation, but exploiting and polluting.

One: Through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, you broke the chains of sin and evil.

All: Forgive us for trusting in ourselves and indulging temptation.

One: In raising Jesus from death, you opened the way to eternal life.

All: Forgive us for placing our hope in this world.

One: You call us to love our neighbour as ourselves.

All: Forgive us for our irritability, pride and self centered focus.

One: Through our baptism, you have made us new.

All: Let us not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our hearts and minds.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (alternately spoken or sung [vu 959])

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (adapted from
lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu)

One: God of freedom,
you brought your people out of slavery with a mighty hand.

Deliver us from our captivity to pride
and indifference to the needs and gifts of others.

**All: May we may hear you speaking to us through your Word,
and be ready to love as you have loved us,
and to give even as we have received. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING:

Exodus 14:19-22

Exodus 14:19-22

New International Version

¹⁹Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, ²⁰coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²²and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

One: This is the witness of Israel.

ALL: Thanks be to God for the Word.

Psalm 105 (VU 828) (Refrain VU 240 line 3)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the Maker all your days!

Part One (1-11)

Give thanks and call on God's name.

Make known to the nations what God has done.

**Sing, O sing the songs of praise;
tell of all God's wonderful deeds.**

Exult in God's holy name;

let those who seek God be joyful in heart. R

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the Maker all your days!

Turn for help to the One who is your strength;
seek God's presence continually.

**Remember the marvels the Most High has done,
the wonders and judgements God has given,**

O children of Abraham and Sarah, God's servants,*

O offspring of Israel, chosen of God. R

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the Maker all your days!

You are the eternal God,

your justice reaches every corner of the earth.

You are ever mindful of your covenant,

the promise you gave to a thousand generations,

**the covenant you made with Sarah and Abraham,
the oath you gave to Isaac.**

You confirmed it for Jacob as binding.

To Israel your everlasting covenant you declared,

**'To you I give the land of Canaan,
as your appointed inheritance.' R**

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the Maker all your days!

One: This is the witness of the ancient song-writers.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: “Thy Word”

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:25-33

Matthew 6:25-33

New International Version

Do Not Worry

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[a]?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and

tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

ALL: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.

SERMON: Speak, Sing, Seek

✠HYMN: “Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace” (VU 684)

MINUTES FOR MISSION “Breaking Down Barriers to Education”

Where would you be if you had no education? School fees, violence, child labour, and discrimination mean that too many children can’t go to or stay in school in parts of the world.

Every child has the right to learn.

Mission and Service partner Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR) brings together child rights organizations to share information about child protection and safeguarding and helps to support children in schools.

Thanks to your support, KAACR has established over 300 child rights clubs in schools. One of these clubs helped Meshack through primary school. A bursary program has helped him pay high school fees, and the child rights club at his school is teaching him how to be a positive role model.

“To start [going to] school was a problem. KAACR has helped me. They encouraged me a lot. They enabled me to start my primary school. Now I’m in high school,” Meshack says. “The club is helping us a lot, too. They give us role models to teach us what is bad and help us be confident in whatever we are doing. I’m very happy.”

Thank you for helping to break down barriers so every child can go to school, regardless of who they are, where they live, or how much money they have. Your generous support through [Mission and Service](#) means that children around the world have the opportunity to go to school thanks to partnerships with organizations like KAACR.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory (Offering Gathered with Reflection)

✠ **Doxology VU 540**

✠ **Offertory Prayer**

One: Loving God, out of the abundance of creation, you have provided for all.

All: Use our gifts in your healing, reconciling and kingdom work in this congregation, our community, and around the globe. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

✠ **A NEW CREED (Alternately spoken or sung [VU 918])**

✠ **CLOSING HYMN: "Called By Earth and Sky" (VU 135)**

✠ **BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

✠ **CHORAL AMEN**

✠ **SENDING FORTH HYMN "Halle, Halle, Halle" (VU 958)**

POSTLUDE: